



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN CORSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **146,976**, dated February 3, 1874; application filed December 23, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. ASKIE, of Charlestown, in the county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Corsets, of which the following is a description sufficiently full, clear, and exact to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of my improved corset. Fig. 2 is a front elevation. Fig. 3 is a side elevation.

Like letters refer to like parts in the different figures of the drawing.

My invention relates to that class of corsets which are provided with skirt-supporters or bustles; and consists in a new construction and arrangement of the parts, as hereinafter more fully set forth; the object being to provide a better-fitting and more durable corset of this description than has heretofore been furnished.

In Fig. 1, A B is the body of the corset. C is the skirt-supporter or bustle; D D', the side-gore elastics; E E', the front straps; F F', the shoulder-straps; G G', the back-gore elastics; m m, the front lacings; c c', buckles for the straps E E'; a, the slot or aperture for the strap E'; M M', the portion of the corsets in which the zinc stays or supports are disposed; n n' and r r', slots or apertures, through which the straps F F' pass; v v, the zinc ribs; z z, the bust-supporting eyelets; and k k' the bust-gores. The body A B of my improved corset is formed of one piece of cloth, from which the bust or bosom gores L L' and side and back gores are afterward cut, and is provided with a lining, between which and said body the ribs and stays or stiffeners are sewed or quilted. The front stays are of zinc, and are provided with eyelets m' m' and lacings m m, also woven or fastened in eyelets, as shown. There are also a series of lateral zinc ribs, v v, in the back, and a series of vertical whale-bone stays, f f f f f, in the sides. The back and hip gores are, respectively, provided with the laterally-arranged elastic straps G G' D D', the ends of which are securely fastened in

the body of the corset. The skirt-supporter or bustle C is constructed in the usual manner, and is made attachable to the back of the corset by the button and strap d. In addition to the strap d there are also the shoulder-straps F F', attached to said bustle, and passing through the oblong holes r r', being crossed inside the corset at x, as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 1, passing out of the holes n n', and being secured by the buckles p p', Fig. 2. This arrangement of the skirt-supporter C permits it to be raised or lowered with great facility to any desired position, and throws the weight of the skirts upon the straps F F' when the strap d is unbuttoned—an important desideratum.

In all corsets the greatest strain in fastening is brought to bear upon the center or waist. I therefore provide the double straps E E', buckles c c', and slot or oblong hole a at that point, arranged as shown in Fig. 2. By this means each section or ring of the corset is buckled firmly to the other, and the strap E', by passing to its buckle through the hole a under the front stay M, instead of over it, is, in a large measure, prevented from wearing out at that point.

In the use of the zinc stays M M', instead of steel or other metal, I obtain a corset which will yield readily and form itself to the person at that point without feeling uncomfortable to the wearer, the semi-elasticity of the zinc rendering it superior to any other substance with which I am acquainted for that purpose. There is also a great advantage in cutting or forming the body of the corset from one piece, as shown in Fig. 1, as it dispenses with seams and lacings to a great extent, while the homogeneity of the material adds to the durability in wearing, and gives a better-fitting garment.

The object of the elastics D D' G G' will be readily understood and appreciated by all ladies who have worn corsets with unyielding gores at these points, as they allow the corset to yield to the form readily, and cause it to fit with ease over the hips or back.

The eyelets z z are provided for the purpose of attaching the ordinary busts or "forms," which are usually pinned to the corsets, and are liable to be lost off or become detached.

In all corsets heretofore constructed with which I am acquainted, the eyelets for the fastenings or lacings have been inserted in the cloth alone. In my improved corset I insert the eyelets *m m'* not only in the cloth, but in the zinc stays *M M'*, by which they are re-enforced, or prevented from tearing out, as in the ordinary construction. Corsets are also usually fastened by a single cord, interlaced in a series of eyelets, and arranged in the front. This renders it difficult to put on and take off the garment, and soon wears out the lacing. I provide, in addition to the straps *E E'*, several short cords or lacings ready threaded in eyelets, as shown at *m m*, by which the corsets can be readily and firmly fastened at the top and bottom, and more readily adjusted to fit the person than where a single cord interlaced, as described, is used.

It is well known that the ends of the bone and metallic stays in corsets soon wear through and destroy the cloth with which they are surrounded. To obviate this I cover the ends of the stays in my improved corset with a rubber sheath, as shown at *s*, Fig. 1, which prevents this and renders the corset much more durable.

The ribs *v v* are not only valuable for keeping the corset in position; but are also of great importance in a sanitary point of view, in affording support to the wearer in cases of weak back and spinal affections.

From the above description, it will be seen, by all conversant with such matters, that my improved corset presents many points of excellence over any corset now in the market.

I am aware that Letters Patent of the United States were granted to one Vanorstrand, December 19, 1871, numbered 122,081, in which a corset having shoulder-straps, side elastics, and also a detachable bustle or skirt-supporter, are shown and described; also, that Letters Patent were granted to one Griswold, July 10, 1866, and reissued June 20, 1871, numbered 4,427, in which shoulder-straps and other parts common to nearly all corsets are shown; also, that one Lamoureux applied for Letters Patent for an improvement in corsets, which application was filed November 19, 1858, in which a corset having shoulder-straps and a bustle and skirt-supporter is described; but in said

Letters Patent and application the devices shown are essentially different from my invention, and I, therefore, do not claim anything shown or described therein when in and of itself considered. I am also aware that a patent was granted to one Foy, September 15, 1863, No. 39,910, in which a whole corset, or a corset in which the body is cut in one continuous piece, is described; and I do not, therefore, claim such a corset in and of itself considered. I am also aware that zinc stays, such as described, are in common use; and I, therefore, do not claim the same in and of themselves considered. I am also aware that a patent was granted to one Smith, April 27, 1869, in which side and back elastics are described; and I, therefore, do not claim the same when in and of themselves considered. Neither do I claim the eyelets *z z* for attaching pads to a corset, nor the eyelets *m' m'* and lacings *m m* for fastening a corset, as the same have long been used for that purpose. I am also aware that in English Patent No. 5,243, granted in 1825, a corset is described having ribs substantially the same as the ribs *v v*; also, that in English Patent No. 1,883, granted in 1865, a corset is described in which the ribs are provided with sheaths or tips substantially the same as the rubber sheath or tip *s*; I therefore do not herein claim the ribs *v v*, nor the tip *s*, when in and of themselves considered. I am also aware that it is not new to use lacings for fastening corsets, nor metallic stays and elastics in the same, and therefore do not claim any of these when in and of themselves considered; but

What I do claim is—

1. The detachable skirt-supporter or bustle *C*, shoulder-straps *F F'*, and corset *A B*, combined and arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a corset, the straps *E E'*, buckles *C C'*, and slot *a*, combined and arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A corset provided with the slots *r r' n n'*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

JOHN W. ASKIE.

Witnesses:

OTIS T. GAREY,  
H. E. METCALF.